DC

34

CATWOMAN™

V
BLANCO
BELLAIRE

I THOUGHT WE WERE ON A *BREAK.*

MISS ME ALREADY, BAT?

PAQUETTE NF 2021

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

THE DARK KNIGHT FACES OFF WITH THE BIG BAD WOLF!

FATES AND FISTS COLLIDE IN THIS 6-ISSUE CROSSOVER WITH THE WORLD OF

FABLES

BATMAN vs. BIGBY!

A WOLF IN GOTHAM

WRITTEN BY

BILL WILLINGHAM

ART BY

BRIAN LEVEL

SEPTEMBER

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BEFORE DESTRUCTION

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DO YOU THINK WE'RE LIKE KIDS BUILDING SANDCASTLES TOO CLOSE TO THE WAVES?
I THINK WE'RE THE ONES TRYING TO KEEP THE WATER AT BAY.

"IT WAS YOUR FRIEND AT THE GCPD. THE NEW DETECTIVE...*HADLEY.*"

THE SIGNAL IS NOT A TOY, DETECTIVE.

H-HA! YOU CAME! IT...IT'S ACTUALLY A THING! I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

RIGHT...RIGHT, OF COURSE. SORRY.

IT'S SELI--UH... CATWOMAN.

AN ASSASSIN NAMED *FATHER VALLEY* HAS BEEN STALKING HER, EVER SINCE SHE CAME TO ALLEYTOWN.

IT'S ALL PART OF HIS PLAN TO *KILL* HER, SEE?

NOW THAT ALLEYTOWN IS ON FIRE AND FATHER VALLEY KNOWS SHE'S PENNED IN ON ALL SIDES...HE'S MAKING HIS MOVE.

THE PENGUIN HIRED HIM TO KILL HER, BATMAN.

NOW, I KNOW YOU HAVE HISTORY WITH HER. I DON'T KNOW MUCH MORE, BUT I KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T JUST LET HER DIE...

...RIGHT? I MEAN... YOU'RE THE BATMAN.

SO YOU'LL LOOK INTO IT?

YOU CARE ABOUT HER...

...DON'T YOU?

I... I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE.

BESIDES...

...HOW DO I COMPETE WITH THAT?

"YOU DON'T."

I COULD GET YOU OUT OF HERE, SELINA. THINGS ARE GOING TO GET ROUGH.

WOULD YOU LEAVE?

RIGHT NOW, IF I SAID I'D GO IF YOU CAME WITH ME... WOULD *YOU* LEAVE?

HERE'S EVERYTHING I COULD FIND ON *KARL SENKE.*

MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN THERE YOU COULD USE.

I FOUND *IVY*, YOU KNOW?

YOU DID?

SHE'S...CHANGED. *DIFFERENT* SOMEHOW. *SIMON SAINT* WAS USING HER TO MAKE SOME SORT OF DRUG.

BUT SHE'S SAFE NOW.

...DO ME A FAVOR? KEEP HER HIDDEN.

YOU ASKING *ME* FOR FAVORS NOW? WEREN'T WE ON A *BREAK?* KEEPING OUT OF EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS?

I WON'T TELL ANYONE IF YOU DON'T.

JUST A BAT CHASING A CAT ON A MOONLIT NIGHT.

SIMPLER TIMES, EH?

THAT WOULD IMPLY THAT I LET YOU...

...GET AWAY?

BRUCE'S RESEARCH ON FATHER VALLEY IS AS THOROUGH AS IT IS CONCERNING.

EVER SINCE THE PENGUIN HIRED KARL SENKE, A.K.A. KARL VALLEY, TO TAKE OUT THE CATWOMAN...

...FATHER VALLEY, DESPITE HIS LUDICROUS AESTHETIC, HAS PROVEN TO BE A STUDIOUS AND METICULOUS HUNTER.

NUDGING EVENTS, ENCOURAGING OUTCOMES TO BRING US ALL HERE, AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

ALLEYTOWN IS BEING STRANGLED FROM THE OUTSIDE BY THE GCPD AND NAKANO'S PRIVATE FORCES.

AND THE INSIDE IS HELD UP BY THE SORT OF DUBIOUS BARGAINS THAT'LL JUST AS SOON SWALLOW ME WHOLE.

HE KNOWS MY OPTIONS AND MY FRIENDS ARE BOTH LIMITED.

AND HE'S SHOWN THAT HE'S NOT AFRAID TO STRIKE AT THOSE I CARE ABOUT.

MY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SIMPLE...

...ALLEYTOWN IS A CAGE. AND THERE'S ROOM FOR ONLY **ONE** CAT TO BE LEFT STANDING.

KRSSH

SELINA KYLE...

WHILE YOU WERE LICKING YOUR WOUNDS, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO THINK.

AND I FINALLY *UNDERSTAND* YOU NOW.

I HAVE WATCHED YOU AS YOU CARVED OUT YOUR CORNER OF THIS CITY.

DEFENDED IT, WEEDED OUT THE WEAK, AND DEALT WITH THE STRONG WHO OPPOSED YOU.

"HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE, UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD SO THAT AT THE PROPER TIME HE MAY EXALT YOU,

"GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

ONE, PETER, FIVE, FIVE.

I ASKED MYSELF WHY. *WHY* DO YOU *DO* THIS?

EACH NIGHT, WHY TURN YOURSELF INTO A *CAT* AND STEAL AND SCRATCH? *RISK* YOUR LIFE FOR *SEEMINGLY LITTLE.*

BUT THEN I UNDERSTAND, YOUR DESIRE IS NOT ONE FOR WEALTH OR POWER.

YOUR SIN, SELINA KYLE...DESPITE YOUR MASK AND YOUR DOUR CLOTHING...IS OF *HUBRIS.* YOU ARE A *NARCISSIST.*

=HMPH= I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, KARL... GOD NEVER GAVE ME A *DAMN THING.*

EVERY LITTLE PIECE OF THIS LIFE THAT I'VE GOT, I'VE HAD TO *FIGHT* FOR.

KLANG

HISS

WUMP

KLANK

MEANWHILE,
AT THE RUINS OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH,
ALLEYTOWN.

COME ON, DETECTIVE.

POLICE

POLICE NO BOT CROSS

THE WHOLE PLACE IS GOING TO HELL OUT THERE.

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE IN A BURNT-UP CHURCH?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE...

...I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN OF GOD?

NOW COME ON =UNH= HELP ME MOVE THIS THING.

WHAT THE HELL'S A BATHTUB DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF A CHURCH?

A HIT MAN NAMED FATHER VALLEY BLEW UP THE CHURCH.* I THINK HE WAS HIDING OUT IN HERE BEFORE HE DECIDED TO SEND IT ALL UP IN FLAMES.

NOT THE KIND OF MAN GIVEN TO EMPTY SHOWS OF POWER. SO, YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF WHY HE BLEW IT UP.

*SEE CATWOMAN 2021 ANNUAL. --JESSICA

WHAT WAS HE HIDING? WHAT *DIDN'T* HE WANT US TO SEE?

IT'S A MAP OF SOME SORT.

OF... ALLEYTOWN, I THINK?

IT'S NOT JUST A REGULAR MAP. IT'S A BUILDING HEIGHT SURVEY, SEE?

GOT A BROTHER WHO WORKS UP IN THE PLANNING OFFICE.

THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH THESE ALL THE TIME BEFORE THEY RELEASE PERMISSIONS FOR HIGH-RISES.

BUT WHY *HERE?* THERE'S NO HIGH-RISES IN ALLEYTOWN...

HE WASN'T HIDING...

WHAT?

THE CHURCH...HE DIDN'T BLOW IT UP TO *HIDE* ANYTHING FROM US.

YOU THINK YOU CAN GET YOUR BROTHER TO SEND ME SOME OF THESE SURVEYS FOR ALLEYTOWN?

UHH...I THINK SO, YEAH.

WE NEED TO GO...NOW! HAVE YOUR BROTHER SEND IT TO *DETECTIVE RIGS* AT THE PRECINCT.

UHH DETECTIVE...? SO *WHY'D* HE BLOW UP THE CHURCH?

POLICE

28 PCT 25889

POLICE NO DOT CROSS

BECAUSE IT WAS IN HIS WAY...DON'T YOU SEE?

THE SOUNDS OF FIRE AND STRIFE IN THE CITY OUTSIDE MIRROR THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE WITHIN.

SWISH

THEY'RE THE SAME...A BATTLE FOR THE HEART OF ALLEYTOWN.

I UNDERSTAND NOW HOW HE MUST FEEL EACH TIME--

--A LITTLE BIT AFRAID, A LITTLE STRONGER FROM KNOWING THAT YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE THIS FIGHT.

FOR NOW, WE ARE MATCHED. BUT MY OPPONENT IS RELENTLESS AND HE HAS AN ADVANTAGE.

HE HAS SPENT DAYS, WEEKS STUDYING ME. UNDERSTANDING HIS PREY. AND I KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT HIM.

I NEED TO FIND MY OWN EDGE.

I NEED TO GET OUT AHEAD OF THIS.

KKRASH

STOP BEING HUNTED...

...BECOME THE HUNTER INSTEAD.

TWIP

KL-CHK

K-TCHANG

FWOSH

DO YOU SEE HOW PREDICTABLE YOU ARE, SELINA KYLE?

CATWOMAN, DARING FEMME FATALE OF THE NIGHT. QUEEN OF ALLEYTOWN.

AND YET EACH TIME YOU ARE FACED WITH ANY REAL DANGER, TRUE STRENGTH-- YOUR INSTINCT IS TO HIDE AND STEAL AND RUN INTO THE SHADOWS.

THERE ARE NO MORE SHADOWS, CATWOMAN. THERE ARE NO MORE HEISTS, NO MORE CLEVER ESCAPES.

THIS RIFLE IS AIMED AT THE BALCONY OF THE NEST WHERE DEAR SISTER *MAGGIE* HAS HER TEA EACH EVENING...

...ITS CROSSHAIRS PLACED DELICATELY ON HER FOREHEAD.

BEFORE MAGGIE IS DONE WITH HER TEA, I WILL FIRE ITS AMMUNITION-- WEIGHTED, ARMOR-PIERCING BULLETS--

--WITH THIS REMOTE FIRING DEVICE.

YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM ME AND SAVE YOUR SISTER OR YOU CAN DIE TRYING. THESE ARE YOUR CHOICES.

NO MORE RUNNING.

THUNK

CALL DETECTIVE RIGS IN THE PRECINCT. TELL HIM TO LOOK FOR OTHER TALL STRUCTURES THAT FALL IN A LINE WITH THE CHURCH AND THE NEST.

FWWHSS

HE IS EVERY BIT A MATCH FOR ME. ADAPTING, CHANGING HIS APPROACH TO COUNTER MINE.

WHERE IS SHE?

I UNDERSTAND NOW HIS TIRADE EARLIER. HIS COMMENTS ON MY NARCISSISM.

HE EXPECTS MY PRIDE TO GET IN THE WAY.

COME ON! COME ON!

I WILL USE THAT AGAINST HIM.

SHRRRK

=HNNNG=

I'LL CREATE AN OPENING. EVEN IF THAT MEANS LEAVING MYSELF OPEN TO PAIN.

MAGGIE?

=HRRRNGH= I BEAR...THIS PAIN...IN YOUR NAME, MY LORD...

HAVE YOU SEEN...

TCHAK

HAHA... DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WON NOW, S-SELINA KYLE?

ARE YOU BRIMMING WITH JOY AND PRIDE AND VINDICATION?

...SELINA KYLE?

HAVE YOU WON?

"FOR HE DID NOT SPARE THE ANGELS WHEN THEY SINNED."

PETER TWO, FOUR.

KLIK

KRAK

MAGGIEEEEEE!

NO! NO-NO-NO...

00:00:08

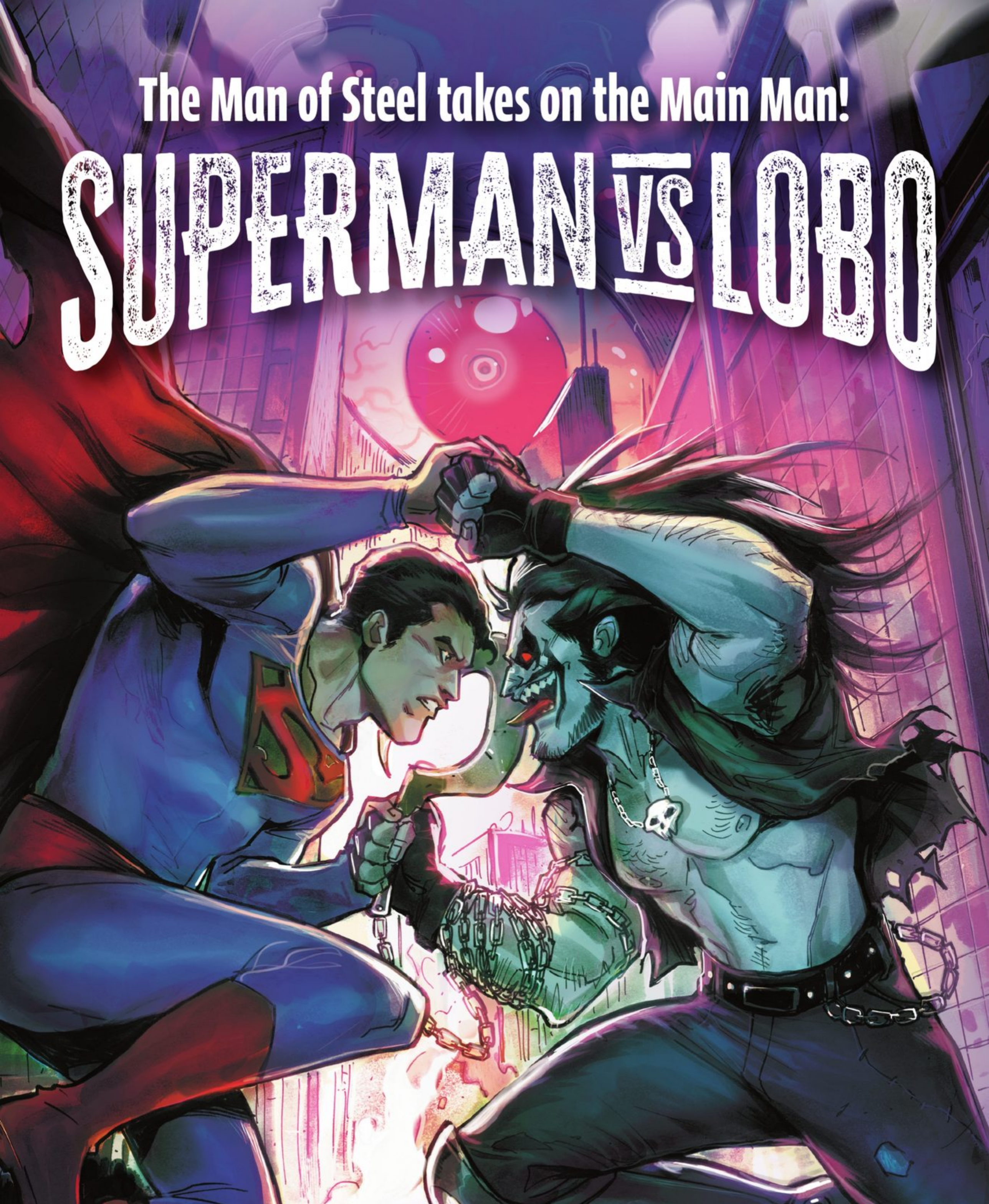
00:00:04

KA-TWOOOM

NEXT: FEARSTATE!

The Man of Steel takes on the Main Man!

SUPERMAN VS LOBO



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3 PRESTIGE PLUS ISSUES
AUGUST

DC BLACK LABEL
AGES 17+

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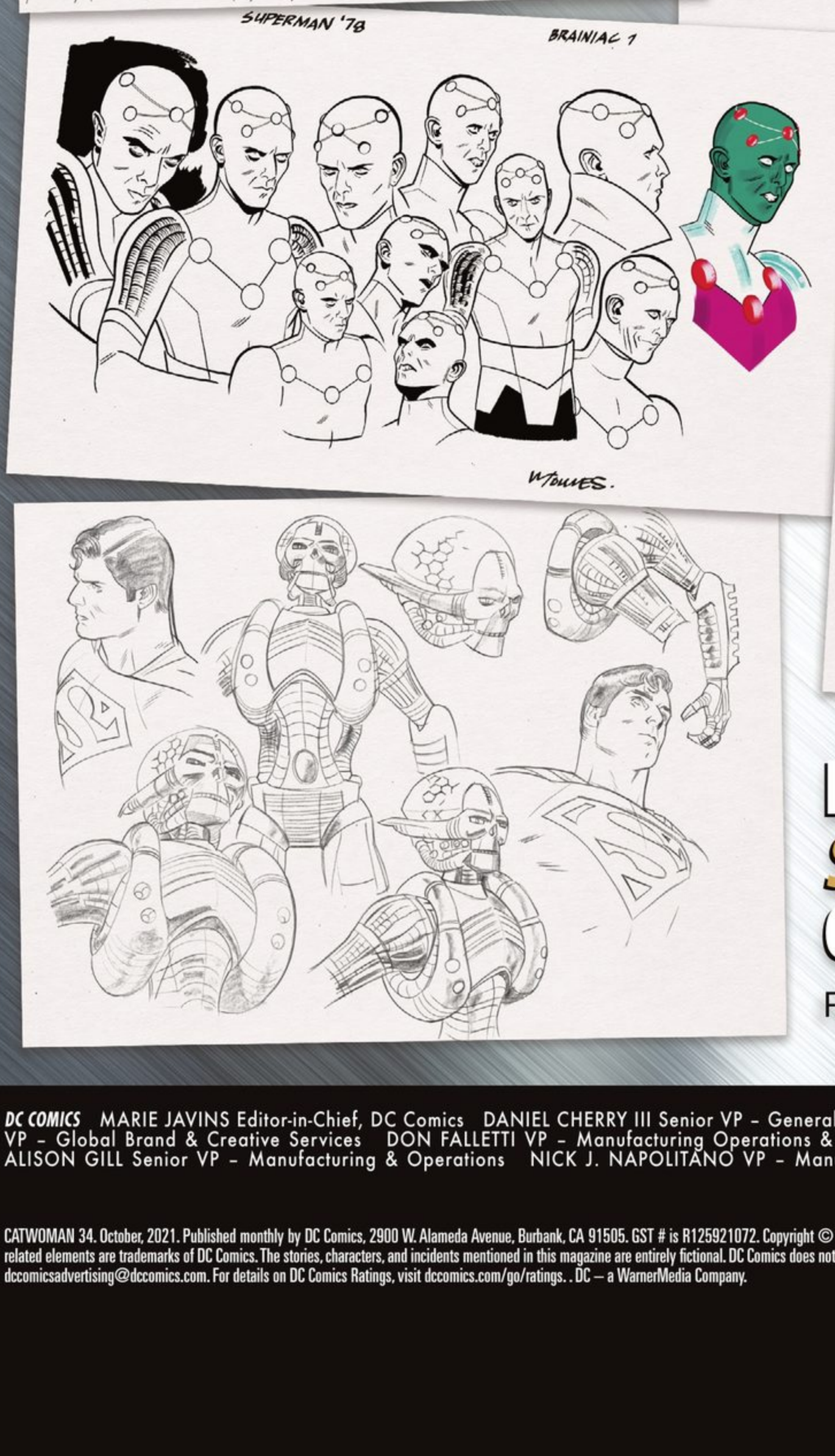
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPERMAN '78

The comic book exclusive you've been waiting for and the sequel you thought you'd never see!

Superman '78, from writer Robert Venditti and artist Wilfredo Torres, is set in the world of *Superman: The Movie* starring the late Christopher Reeve, and starts with the crash-landing of a mysterious drone—and the arrival of Brainiac!

We opened up Torres's sketchbook for a look inside the inspired, cinematic designs for the series.



DON'T MISS SUPERMAN '78 #1 ON SALE IN AUGUST!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"